

Remarks

The abstract is amended in view of the Examiner's objections stated in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Detailed Action, and is now believed to be in compliance with the applicable provisions of the MPEP.

In response to the Examiner's objection (stated in paragraph 5 of the Detailed Action) that the term "core" is unclear, the specification is amended to describe more fully the composition of the core portion of the leaf spring. Applicant believes that this description now makes claim 7 definite and therefore allowable.

Claim 1 is amended to recite the invention as a motor vehicle having a suspension including a transverse leaf spring so that the geometry of the invention transverse leaf spring may be claimed with greater specificity and thereby to distinguish it from the cited prior art. Specifically, claim 1 now recites that a middle region of the transverse leaf spring extends generally transversely to the motor vehicle, a torsional portion extends generally parallel with a longitudinal axis of the motor vehicle, and an end portion extends generally transversely to the motor vehicle, the three portions being connected by first and second arcs.

The spring 32 taught in the Schroeder et al reference does not have a torsional portion that extends generally parallel with a longitudinal axis of the motor vehicle. Rather, spring 32 lies substantially in a vertical plane, as seen in Fig. 3. There is no portion of spring 32 which undergoes torsional loading when the attached wheel deflects vertically.

Applicant submits that the amended claim 1 is now allowable over the prior art, and that therefore all other dependent claims are also allowable.

No other art is cited in the Office Action. Based on the foregoing comments, the above-identified application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If any further amendment is necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable condition, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact the undersigned by fax or telephone at the number listed below.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No.06-1505.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary Smith
Registration No.: 39,376
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)

Date: 11/9/2005
Ford Global Technologies, LLC
600 Parklane Towers East
Dearborn, Michigan 48126
P: 1-313-323-0541
F: 1-313-322-7162